

REVIVING THE BARREN LANDSCAPE

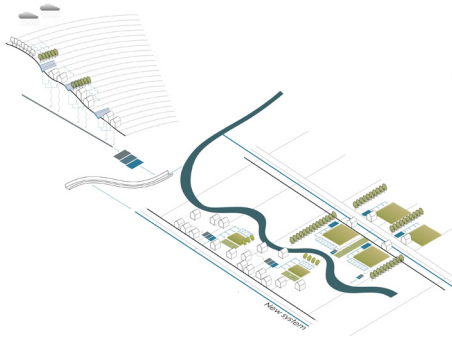
Chiquintad and Checa are two of the parishes that lie around Cuenca, Ecuador. Located at the end of a valley, they form a hinge between the densely populated city and a protected nature reserve in the north. The area is characterised by a dispersed figure, which lets the inhabitants enjoy an open landscape also the main vocation of the area. But this asset is under threat due to increasing migration and movement inside the parish. Current figures predict a 60 percent increase in population for the next decade. Besides, there is also a fairly large amount of domestic agriculture as an extra source of income, which cannot continue to exist in the same form due to the limitation of space. By envisioning strategies that keep the open spaces intact while taking into account the local habits, the openness is sustained so that the parish can take advantage of this dispersion and improve its living conditions.

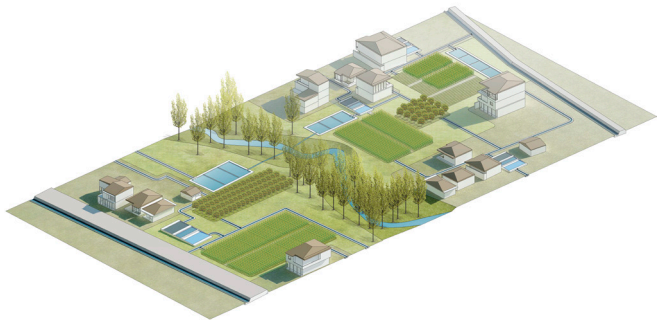


Open areas in the landscape are exploited by increasing the quality and in that way they formed a frame for future urbanisation. As an answer to the domestic, spacedepleting agriculture, a new system that streamlines production in a sustainable way is proposed. The cycle is a mixture of farming and breeding animals and uses both output and waste at different steps in the process, to minimise input and labour, which is also reflected in the arrangement of the space. In the large flat land, the system is applied to scale up production in the denser areas, public areas along the rivers and creeks are utilised to implement the system for the community. This provides the growing population with an extra source of income and tackles the risk of the shortage of land.



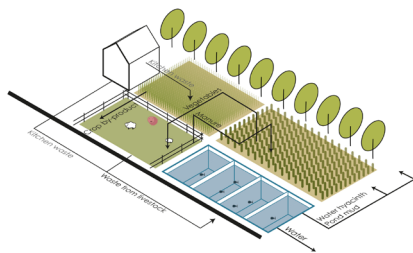
A new water system forms an extra layer in the productive landscape. The small dug channels, which serve as drains for rainwater, are reengineered to not only get rid of runoff rainwater but also collect it, so that it can be used for domestic activities. Water in the steep high land is slowed down, collected and used and after purification, the same can be done in the low land.



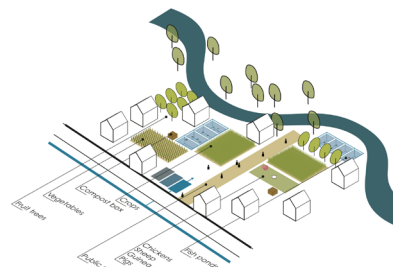


Additionally, both the water structure and productive landscape are new destinations for public spaces something that the inhabitants are lacking right now. A bicycle path serves an alternative mobility towards the city centre for the people's daily commute. At the same time, it suppresses the existing road, which is currently the only good connection.



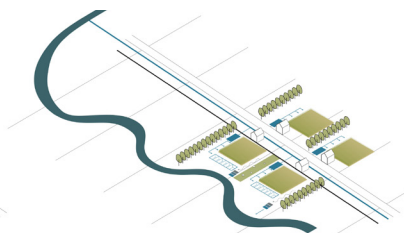
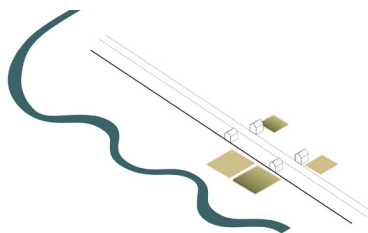
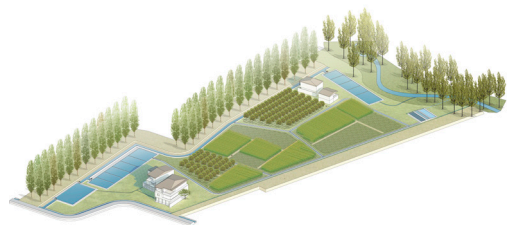
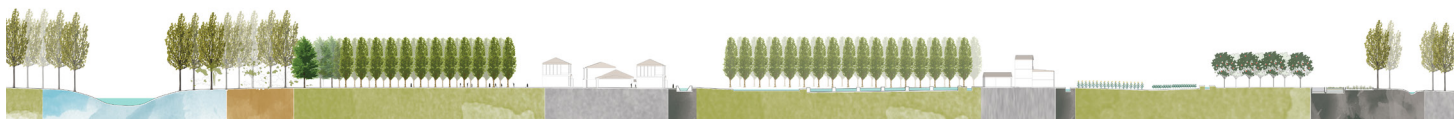


Integrated agriculture-aquaculture for larger scale production



Community gardens along the public river side

In anticipation of the future growth inside the parish and the valley, the project takes profit of the dispersion by safeguarding and enriching the open character of the landscape, and meanwhile, forming a flexible and qualitative structure for the imminent urbanisation.



Open areas in the landscape are exploited by increasing the quality and in that way they formed a frame for future urbanisation. As an answer to the domestic, spacedepleting agriculture, a new system that streamlines production in a sustainable way is proposed. The cycle is a mixture of farming and breeding animals and uses both output and waste at different steps in the process, to minimise input and labour, which is also reflected in the arrangement of the space. In the large flat land, the system is applied to scale up production in the denser areas, public areas along the rivers and creeks are utilised to implement the system for the community. This provides the growing population with an extra source of income and tackles the risk of the shortage of land.

